" Whatever our Politics,
the Constitution must be sustained "

Arlington Heights
Thursday Sep 26th 1861

Dear Sister Nellie I received your last letter of Friday 20th just as I had finish the letter that I sent to you I also received the two papers that you sent I was glad of Mothers and Eddy likeness and think a grate deale of it of the 26th of Sept the day of fastinde and prayer this morning they was detaile to go a chopping but after they got on the parade ground they was orderd to brake ranks and go to thear quarters we have got a holy Chaplin he has preach to us more then four times since we left Albany yesterday the report was that the rebbles was a goin to attack us and the orders was from heade

quarters for not a man to leave
his Quarters and the Artilery was
all drawn in line all day
this is the plaice to see Military
sight after Regts are from all over
thar is a Company of 75 men
from Texas they have the funnish
Uniforms that you ever seen
and carry a Spear and Lassow
but it all the arms that they
use ~~when~~ they are Mounted
on splendid horses when they
are on guards in the day time
they carry nothing but their
lassow and iff a man tries
to git a way they through the
lassow and catch him every time
and to see the horses run a way
here they drive four horses
with one line I have seen
their big waggons smash all to
pieces you ought the roads
a while and see them shoes

the horces thay have the forge
on the waggon You see a hundred
horces gitting shode at once
Friday Morning it has ben raining
all Night and all Morning the
Regt. was on picket and Only
left enought to doo the guard
dutie the Regt. took two days
raisons and want come back
before Sunday I am on guard
at the gate of the Fort
in the guard house of the Fort
is fool of prisoners even got
a Captain that belongs to the
13th Regt. and some 12th boys
and two regulers and the rest
belongs to our Regt. I suppose
that thar is a good deal of
talk about the 74th in Utica
and I suppose that some thinks
thar are a lot of ~~Cowards~~
Cowards by some of the talk
that comes to ~~us~~

but thay are the far from being Cowards every time that thay have ben on picket and Our Pickets have ben drove in the 14th has ben the last to retreate and never have till thay have ben orderd to retreate when some others Regt. that would bee or the reserve would throught away thair blankets and overcoats and run thar the De Caulb Regt. from New York a ducke Regt. thar are the bigest lot of Cowards thar I ever seen and all most every time thay git drove in when thay come to relive ous the other time that Our Regt. was out and the rebbles was fireing at ous thay was scart to death and three went to relieve three of ours Men until the bullits was hitting the trees thay was agoin to ran right away

Your Brother
O. F. Reader

I send [redacted]
P. S. [illegible] one dollar